

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 05679 261516Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 /059 W

----- 006801

O R 261355Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4398

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5679

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MILL, PINT, PO

SUBJECT: LISBON SUV DEMONSTRATION SHAKES PORTUGUESE MILITARY

REF: (A) LISBON 5569 DTG 221424Z SEP 75

(B) LISBON 5631 DTG 241717Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING (SEPT 26) ESTABLISHMENT OF MILITARY INTERVENTION GROUP, PROBABLY IN RESPONSE TO SEPT 25 SUV DEMONSTRATION AND SUBSEQUENT FREE-ING OF TWO MILITARY PRISONERS. COMMANDER OF NEW GROUP WORKED WITH CDR. VICTOR CRESPO IN MOZAMBIQUE. ORGANIZATION OF GROUP, WHICH WILL BE DIRECTLY UNDER PRESIDENT IN HIS CAPACITY AS ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF, LOOKS LIKE VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN COPCON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 05679 261516Z

COMMANDER CARVALHO. IT MAY ALSO BE SLAP AT ARMY CHIEF FABIAO

FOR HIS FAILURE TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION TO RESTORE DISCIPLINE IN BARRACKS. SUV DEMONSTRATION IS FLAGRANT CHALLENGE TO AUTHORITY, WHICH MILITARY CANNOT AFFORD TO IGNORE. END SUMMARY.

1. RC CREATES NEW GROUP: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ANNOUNCED AT 7:00 A.M. SEPT 26 THE FORMATION OF MILITARY INTERVENTION GROUP (AGRUPAMENTO MILITAR DE INTERVENCAO--AMI). AMI WILL FUNCTION DIRECTLY UNDER PRESIDENT AND IS PRESUMABLY IN RESPONSE TO SEPT 25 DEMONSTRATION BY RADICAL SOLDIERS ORGANIZATION SOLDIERS UNITED WILL WIN (SOLDADOS UNIDOS VENCERAO -- SUV). COMMANDER OF AMI IS BG NUNO MELO EGIDIO FORMER PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR IN MOZAMBIQUE UNDER VITOR CRESPO. ALTHOUGH AUTHORITY AND MANDATE OF NEW UNIT ARE NOT KNOWN, IT WILL HAVE TROOPS FROM ALL THREE SERVICES.

2. LISBON SUV DEMONSTRATION: ANNOUNCEMENT OF MILITARY INTERVENTION GROUP CAME ON HEELS OF LARGE SEPT 25 DEMONSTRATION IN LISBON SPONSORED BY RADICAL SUV. DATT ESTIMATES THAT AS MANY AS 30,000 -- INCLUDING ABOUT 1,000 UNIFORMED MILITARY -- TOOK PART IN DEMONSTRATION. MAJORITY WERE FROM RALIS AND MP'S. DEMONSTRATORS GATHERED IN DOWNTOWN LISBON AT 7:30 P.M. MARCHERS WOUND THEIR WAY THROUGH CITY IN ROUTE THAT PASSED BY OFFICES OF NEWSPAPER "REPUBLICA" AND RADIO STATION "RADIO RENASCENSA." AT RADIO STATION MARCHERS, LED BY SOLDIERS, STOPPED TO SING "INTERNATIONALE", THEN CONTINUED TO EDWARD VII PARK. MARCH DISCIPLINE WAS UNIFORMLY EXCELLENT. GROUP WAS LED BY MILITARY POLICE JEEPS; SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS FORMED CORDON ALONG ROUTE OF MARCH.

3. THEMES: THEMES OF DEMONSTRATION CENTERED AROUND SUV MANIFESTO (REF A). MOST IMPORTANT INCLUDED: TRANSFORMATION OF PORTUGUESE ARMY INTO "POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY ARMY," PURGING OF "REACTIONARY" OFFICERS; AND UNITY WITH OTHER "POPULAR" ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS NEIGHBORHOOD AND WORKERS' COMMITTEES. THE "LIBERATION" OF TWO SUV ORGANIZERS (SEE BELOW) WAS NOT ONE OF THE INITIAL THEMES OF THE DEMONSTRATION.

4. RELEASE OF SUV MEMBERS: DECISION BY DEMONSTRATORS TO GO TO NEARBY TRAFARIA PRISON TO DEMAND RELEASE OF TWO SOLDIERS DETAINED EARLIER IN WEEK IN MAFRA FOR PASSING OUT SUV LITERATURE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 05679 261516Z

APPEARED TO EMBOFF ON SCENE TO HAVE BEEN UNPLANNED. SPEAKER AT EDUARDO VII PARK REFERRED TO PROPOSAL FOR "SECOND DEMONSTRATION" TO FREE TWO SOLDIERS, SCHEDULED FOR FOLLOWING DAY. SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS IN CROWD DEMANDED DEMONSTRATORS PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO THE PRISON. WITHIN MINUTES MARCH LEADERS WERE INSTRUCTING DEMONSTRATORS TO COMMANDEER BUSES AND OTHER TRANSPORT AND TO PROCEED TO THE PRISON. PARK WAS CLEARED WITHIN TEN MINUTES.

5. SEVERAL THOUSAND FROM ORIGINAL CROWD, TRAVELLING IN ASSORTMENT OF COMMANDEERED VEHICLES, GATHERED AT PRISON. PRISON COMMANDER ORIGINALLY REFUSED DEMAND THAT PRISONERS BE FREED. TWO PRISONERS WERE FINALLY RELEASED AT 2:25 A.M. AFTER ORDER WAS RECEIVED FROM COPCON COMMANDER CARVALHO. THE TWO MADE BRIEF SPEECHES TO THE CROWD, AND THEN JOINED CONVOY, WHICH RETURNED TO LISBON.

6. OTELO'S ROLE: UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN LISBON FROM SWEDEN A FEW HOURS BEFORE THE SUV DEMONSTRATION, OTELO TOLD PRESS HE QUESTIONED UTILITY OF SUV, SUGGESTING THAT IT MIGHT SPLIT ARMED FORCES UNITY, THEREBY SERVING REACTION. THESE REMARKS WERE OVERSHADOWED, HOWEVER, BY HIS COMMENTS ON RECENT THEFT OF ARMY G-3 AUTOMATIC RIFLES (REF B). OTELO REPORTEDLY STATED: "IF THEY WERE IN THE HANDS OF THE RIGHT, I WOULD CONSIDER THAT DANGEROUS. BUT AS THEY ARE IN THE HANDS OF THE LEFT, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED THEY'RE IN GOOD HANDS."

7. COMMENT: EXCELLENT ORGANIZATION OF DEMONSTRATION INDICATES THAT EXPERIENCED PEOPLE WERE INVOLVED. PCP HAS COOPERATED WITH SUV ORGANIZERS, AND PCP'S CONSIDERABLE TALENTS FOR ORGANIZING SUCH EVENTS WERE EVIDENT.

8. CREATION OF NEW MILITARY ORGANIZATION UNDER COMMAND OF BG MELO EGIDIO IS SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT. MELO EGIDIO WORKED UNDER VICTOR CRESPO IN MOZAMBIQUE. CREATION OF AMI APPEARS TO BE VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN COPCON COMMANDER CARVALHO. ACTION MAY BE SLAP AT ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF FABIAO AS WELL. FABIAO HAS TALKED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT PROBLEM OF DISCIPLINE BUT FAILED NOTABLY TO TAKE DECISIVE ACTION TO REINFORCE IT IN BARRACKS. KEY QUESTION IS RELATIONSHIP OF NEW ORGANIZATION TO COPCON AND NEW ORGANIZATION'S AUTHORITY AND MANDATE. COMMUNIST-DOMINATED EMISSORA NACIONAL, IN REPORTING ANNOUNCEMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LISBON 05679 261516Z

THIS MORNING, SPECULATED ABOUT POSSIBLE EFFECT CREATION OF NEW GROUP WOULD HAVE UPON OTELO AND COPCON. WHAT IS SURE IS THAT SUV DEMONSTRATION AND FREEING OF SOLDIERS IS FLAGRANT CHALLENGE TO AUTHORITY WHICH MILITARY AND NEW GOVERNMENT CANNOT AFFORD TO IGNORE.
CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON05679
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750334-0933
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750910/aaaaairp.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 5569
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LISBON SUV DEMONSTRATION SHAKES PORTUGUESE MILITARY
TAGS: PINS, MILI, PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006